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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

26 August 1947

TO : Office of the Attache
FROM : Investigation Section
SUBJECT: Visa Application # 19296

ENGEL, Hugo

1. Hugo ENGEL was born in Vienna on 3 August 1883. He is married to Ethel Newman TERRY, a British citizen, and has two children. His present address is 28 Boulevard Malesherbes, Paris 8e.

2. ENGEL, who is a dealer and expert in fine pictures and "objets d'art", previously lived in France from 1904 to 1912, in England from 1912 to 1921, and finally settled in Paris in 1938. Besides his interests in Paris, he also owned art galleries in Vienna and London. The latter was seized in 1939 and placed under the custody of the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property, which released it on 2 April 1947. ENGEL also recently made an unsuccessful attempt to get a military permit to go to Vienna to settle his interests there. The permit was denied by the Military Government authorities.

3. During the occupation ENGEL is reported to have been active in official German interests in France and Switzerland. He is listed in the Final Report of the Art Looting Investigation Unit as a close collaborator of WENDLAND and LOEHL, and as the chief Paris agent for HABERSTOCK, Karl the leading Nazi art dealer. ENGEL, who ran his Paris gallery through a Frenchman named HISSON, intervened after the liberation with the U.S. Military authorities in favor of VON POLNITZ (or POLLMITZ), a wealthy Luftwaffe officer stationed in Paris during the occupation and intimate friend and Paris representative of HABERSTOCK. ENGEL described VON POLNITZ as strongly anti-Nazi and a great humanitarian, and credited him with aiding Jews and anyone else who came to him for help.

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Paragraphs 4 and 5 page 2

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317

4. KNOEL was indicted on 21 March 1945 by the Cour de Justice (H. Prepier, Juge d'Instruction) for intelligence with the enemy. The case does not appear to have been pursued any further as there is no trace of a sentence or an acquittal in the records of either the criminal or political sections of the Cour de Justice, where KNOEL's name is not even listed.

5. The Final Report of the Art Locating Investigation Unit recommends that KNOEL be apprehended, interrogated, and permanently excluded from the United States.